



*NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Legislative Black Caucus, Chair*

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October 23, 2006

Ex Parte

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger.

As Chair of the NC Legislative Black Caucus, I have carefully followed the merger's progress. BellSouth is an important employer, taxpayer and corporate citizen in many North Carolina communities. I believe the merger of these two strong companies will serve the public interest and greatly benefit residents of this state.

As I understand it, AT&T has made a post-merger commitment to provide broadband to every household in its service territory and to make it cheaper for dial-up customers to afford broadband. These commitments will help drive high-speed broadband usage and help close the digital divide between rich and poor, urban and rural. This will greatly enrich the lives and economic prosperity of all of our citizens.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beverly Earle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Beverly M. Earle  
NC House of Representative

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary